

**Lester Associates, Inc.**

383 Main Street, Suite 202, Chatham, NJ 07928-2100

Telephone: (973) 635-2254, Fax: (973) 635-7449, Email: info@lester.com

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

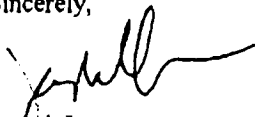
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Apparently the settlement reached by the U.S. Justice Department and Microsoft has caused somewhat of an uproar among Microsoft's adversaries who unsuccessfully pushed for a break-up of the company. This is unfortunate, because the settlement addresses and resolves the issues at hand in a very fair and even-handed way for all of the parties involved. Microsoft did not need to be broken up to accomplish this objective.

An example of the settlement going a long way to "level the playing field" is Microsoft's unprecedented concession to disclose significant portions of the code for its' Windows operating system to competitors. Additionally, it has agreed not to retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows or that runs on software that competes with Windows. Finally, it will no longer retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. While only one aspect of the settlement, this alone should make Microsoft's competition very happy, as it will make things easier for them to appropriate ideas without actually having to work harder.

Innovation and advancement suffered as a result of the lawsuit. Hopefully the settlement will be finalized soon so we can move forward again.

Sincerely,


Joseph Lester
President